

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 9. 1768.

WE have had several Expresses and Accounts since my last, about the intended Invasion of the *French*, and we are now told directly, we need not give our selves any Trouble to discourse of their coming this way, or coming that way; but that we may expect them if they come at all, they will come in *Scotland*; nay, the *French* King himself makes no Secret of it, but lets all the World know, that he has dismiss'd the young Gentleman upon this Expedition, with a Desire to see him no more.

Any Body will believe, his most Christian Majesty spoke sincerely, when at parting he gave the young Enterprizer his Blessing in these Oracular Words, *I wish I may never see you more*; I do not say it is true, that he spoke these Words at parting, but as all

our Accounts agree in reporting it, I take Notice of it as true, and only say, let the Words be taken in all the *double Entendres* you can form, his Majesty was in the right; and tho' I am none of those that think our selves so certain of Conquest as to wish him on Shoar in this Island; yet without National Vanity I believe I may say, if he does get on Shoar, 'tis odds, whether he ever sees *France* again or no.

And after all, I am of the Opinion, the King of *France* is not so weak as to expect by this Attempt, to restore Tyranny to this Island, and much less to *Scotland*, where after all that has been said to make us believe, the Scots are universally disaffected, in which I shall pretend to convince you they are abused; they have had such Surfeits of the Tyranny and Blood of this very Generation, that

that you need not doubt but on the Appearance of the *French* there, you will find a Party strong enough, and ready enough to shew their Faces in Opposition to any *French* Attempt of Re-establishing that Tyranny and Superstition among them.

I remember, when the Duke of *Monmouth* invaded King *James*, and landed in the *West*, a Proclamation of five thousand Pound Reward for the apprehending him, did more to the effectual seizing his Person, even among those that otherwise would have been willing enough to have let him escape, than all the Pursuit of the King's Troops could have done—— And on the other hand, the laying hold of the principal Citizens and Gentlemen, who were but in the least thought to favour the Interest of the Invaders, was a mortal Stab to the Design, and baulk'd all the Schemes laid for a Conjunction with the Duke of *Monmouth*.

Upon the *French* Invasion, if it should be thought fit by the Government but to take the same Measures, we should soon see the Effect upon our *Northern Jacobites*.

Indeed the present Government has a great deal of Reason to expect from a Nation, whose Eyes are open, that they should endeavour to lay hold of this Invader without a Reward; but if her Majesty should but be pleased to lay ten thousand Pounds as the Price of that Gentleman's Corps, *not but that it may be a great Deal more than is worth*, dare say, there are thousands in *Britain*, that now talk very high for his Interest, would be the first to surrender him and his Cause too, into the Hands of the first Man they met, that could but pay the Money.— Nay, I believe, I do no Body any Wrong, if I say, he brings many a Man along with him, that would sell him and his Cause for Half the Money.

'Tis in the Nature of their Party to forsake their Friends; 'tis in the Blood of a *Tory* to sell his Cause; they will rail for it, and swear for it fast enough, abuse their Neighbours, and be ever blustering for their

Cause; but we never found they car'd for Fighting—In all the Advantages that ever were given them, we never found them for venturing their Bones—— Let but the *QUEEN* offer 10000 *l.* for the young Spark, I warrant, if he is brought in, a *Tory* does it—— If ever he is bought by his Enemies, I warrant him sold by his Friends.

—They that know the Power of ten thousand Pounds, and how much that Party stand in need of such a Sum; that know the Influence of Money upon Men of no Principles, will easily agree with me in this.—Then to apply it, let them but tell me of what Principle is a *Jacobite*—— Understand me right too; by a *Jacobite* under this Circumstance, I mean a swearing *Jacobite*, a *Jacobite* that swears and conforms to the present Government, and yet remains a *Jacobite*; if ever this Prince, as they would call him, trusts them, and this 10000 *l.* comes in their Way, it must be own'd, he is fitter to go to *Bethlehem*, than to *Scotland*— For tell me, Gentlemen *Tories*, if ye can, how can it but be expected, that they that sell their Principles, should sell their Prince? I break no Charity therefore in telling the World, that these are the first Men that will abandon either the Cause or the Man, and let them show me a *Tory* of this Sort, that over withstood such a Temptation, if they can.

The other Step of taking up Persons suspected, I need say little to, the Parliament being already upon that Affair, which must be legally done with Respect to the *Habeas Corpus Act*; but let that but go on, and Forty or Fifty of the Chief Heads of Clans and known *Jacobites* in the North be secur'd, he may come when he pleases, he'll meet with but cold Entertainment in the North of *Britain*, in spite of all the imaginary Discontents which are suggested by us upon that People, of whom we are very forward to be scandalously abusive.

I shall give you my Thoughts about the *French Spectacles* they are bringing over in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have been frequently sollicitous to speak in Publick, since this Session of Parliament began, to the so-often controverted Point of Relief of Debtors, in order, if possible, to convince the Nation, how necessary it is once for all to relieve the excessive Burthen of distress'd Families, that languish under the Cruelty of merciless Creditors; but knowing what an invidious Office I should enter upon, I have hitherto declin'd it, not at all as a thing necessary to be done, and which I think, all Men of Honesty and Compassion wish to have done; but as a thing which has so often been attempted, but has met with such Opposition from the Power of those Men, whose Cruelty makes it the more necessary, that I saw no Hopes of bringing it to pass— However, at the renewed Entreaty of the many many Objects of National Tenderneſs, which are every Day mourning in our Streets, I have resolv'd once more to attempt the almost impossible Work of opening the Eyes of them, that are wilfully Blind.

And before I enter into this Labyrinth of Strife, I must clear up the general Scandal, that I know will lie against the Argument, I mean the Circumstances of the Author.

I am not ashamed to own, I have been to be reckon'd in the Number of the Unfortunate, and that I have more than once attempted to clear my self from the Inexorable, by the publick Lenity of the Law, and I hope have in a good Measure effected; but whether it be so or no, I think, it can no way affect this Case before me, in which I pretend to claim no Advantage, and I hope, stand in need of none—

Again, I expose a great Clamour at Frauds committed by Bankrupts, which render them unworthy of the Nation's Compassion; much Noise of which was made at the Bar of the House of Lords two Year ago, but nothing of Fact prov'd, neither is it an Argument against the Relief of the honest Man of Misfortune, if there had.

Some Cries also began to be made against the Honesty of the Surrender of those People, who came off by that Act—Tho' I hear not of one Man prosecuted for Perjury upon it, nor indeed ought such a Complaint to move any reasonable Man; since the Law is so severe on the Offender, as to reach his Life; and we all know, the Complainers want no Cruelty to prosecute; till then some Proof of Fact is made, and some Criminal detected, we may very justly conclude, it is without Ground.

Perhaps it may be expected, I should say something to the barbarous Attempts of this Nature made upon my self— When absent and remote, I was not able to answer, and could not imagine a thing so villainous could have enter'd into the Hearts of the worst Enemies I had— But I shall convince the World, I do not think it worth a Moments Concern, and I believe, no wise Man but would agree in this, that *my having at first in Print answer'd it, and challenged the hidden Accusers to appear and prove it, promising to come up and surrender my self to Justice upon first Notice, was my sufficient Vindication*—But above all, my having been now above two Months among you, and fairly shown my Face, the Accusers having not thought fit to say one Word to it, nor let me know who they are, that I might do my self Justice upon them, is, I think, a sufficient Vindication to me, and I believe, no honest Man need desire a better Testimony.

To return therefore to the Case in hand, I meet with no Man so barbarous, but allows, when a Debtor is willing to surrender his All, and has actually done so, he has a Title to the Compassion of every honest Man; National Justice should, and I am sure, National Policy will, if rightly pursued, concern themselves to deliver him.

Justice should, the Text is plain; if he has nothing to pay, why shouldst thou take his Bed from under him? where by the way might be very well form'd an Argument; Why he
that

that surrenders his Effects in general, ought not only to be spar'd his Liberty, but Necessaries too for his Family, such as Cloths, and Householdstuffs— He that has no more than these, *has nothing*—For the Man is suppos'd to have a Bed to lie on, and yet to have nothing to pay; I am sure in our late *Act*, the Debtor surrendered the Bed from under him, and yet obtain'd not his full Liberty neither, of which your humble Servant was One; he that reserves nothing but the Necessaries of his Family, I think, in the Sense of the Scripture, makes an honest Surrender; but, of this hereafter.

National Policy will encline to restore these Miserables, because they are lost to the Commonwealth, scatter'd and exiled, or render'd useless and incapable to improve the publick Stock, employ themselves or encourage others, while they are crush'd by the Tyranny of the Creditor, and if mercifully dealt with, tho' strip'd naked of Substance, which seems indeed just, all that can be called Substance being the Creditors Due, might by Industry and Labour recover themselves, and replant their Families, and all the wise Nations in the World, who have pursued the true Ends of Government, have thought it worth their while to make this Sort of People their peculiar Care, not to protect them in, or encourage them to the abusing and defrauding their Creditors; nor shall any Man ever have it to say, I argue for such, but to protect them from being crush'd and destroy'd as Men and as Fellow-Creatures, which it is plain, especially in England, the Inhumanity of our Trading Christians frequently and professedly pushes at.

In pursuing this Argument, I shall carefully therefore keep the *Medium* between defrauding the Creditor, and murdering the Debtor, and make it a Maxim never to be departed from, That one is as absolutely to be provided against as the other.

I am not altogether of the Opinion, that arresting and imprisoning Debtors for Payment or Security of the Creditor, is not a true Way of proceeding, I mean as to Na-

tional Policy, and there are Reasons of Trade to be given for it; this Way of proceeding being the best, if not the only Foundation, on which the vast personal Trust, which we call Petty-Credit, is founded—And as this Petty-Credit is one great Support of our Home Commerce, on the constant Circulation of which our Trade depends; so there would be little or none of this Petty-Credit given, if the Law did not give the Creditor a Kind of a Security upon the Person and Liberty of the Debtor; and therefore in those Countries where immediate Attachment of the Body of the Debtor is not allow'd, you have little or no Credit given in Trade—This I shall speak more largely to hereafter, but I note it here, to set clear all Objections against what I am arguing for, and to shew how different the Oppression and Destruction of the Debtor is from a fair, legal and just seeking our Right, by all the Degrees of a legal Prosecution.

There is, as they say, a new Act coming on in the House, for the more effectual Discharge of these unhappy People, and rendering them not useful to the common Interest only, but useful in the very Act of their Discharge, viz. by entring such as are fit for it into the publick Service, and accepting other Men for those who are not able to serve in Person. I shall speak more particularly to it in my next.

Advertisement to H. M. C. D.

THE Gentleman, who sent a Parcel of Papers above a Year since, with a long Letter sign'd as above, and another Letter lately to enquire about them, is desir'd to note, that the Papers aforesaid being too large to be conveyed to the Author, (being then in Scotland) the Printer laid them by; and omitting to speak of them till this second Letter put him in Mind of them, they never came to the Author's Sight till a few Days ago; If the Person sending them has any thing particularly to require in Relation to the said Papers, he is desir'd to send Word, and any reasonable Satisfaction will be given him.